

Education Expert Explores "Engaged Philanthropy" In New "I Have a Dream"[®] Book

**HARVARD'S MARGOT WELCH AUTHORS NEW BOOK ON SURPRISING
REWARDS THAT COME FROM HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH "I HAVE
A DREAM"[®] FOUNDATION**

*Education Expert Explores "Engaged Philanthropy" and
Investigates Impact On Philanthropists Who Help At-Risk Youth Achieve
Education Dreams*

NEW YORK, NY (June 12, 2006) – A new book written by Margot Welch, a lecturer at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, recounts the stories of philanthropists who decide to dedicate considerable amounts of money, time and heart to bettering the lives and education of children. The book, entitled *Promising Futures: The Unexpected Rewards of Engaged Philanthropy*, draws on the real life experiences of Sponsors of the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation. Since the mid-1980s, the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation has been motivating and empowering youth from low-income communities to reach their education and career goals by providing long-term mentoring, tutoring, enrichment, and tuition assistance for higher education.

In the opening chapter of *Promising Futures*, Welch explains the concept of "*engaged philanthropy*" –charitable giving that goes beyond simply writing checks. She describes what happens to the "I Have a Dream"[®] philanthropists, known as "Sponsors," who actively involve themselves over a long period of time in the lives of their "Dreamers," the children whose futures they promise to improve. The relationships that develop become very important to both Sponsors and Dreamers. Sponsors provide all kinds of supports to students and families alike, maintaining those relationships for 10-15 years.

As Welch writes, "Sponsoring, it turns out, is not only standing but walking in another's shoes. It is not only 'being there' but growing along with people and institutions as they change." As a result of what they do and learn, many "I Have a Dream"[®] Sponsors become advocates for education reform and are involved in developing new schools, school-based enrichment programs and other education initiatives that aim to brighten the future for all children.

Promising Futures was released upon the 25th Anniversary of the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation. Welch was inspired to write the book after hearing "I Have a Dream"[®] founder Eugene M. Lang speak at a conference on mentoring that she ran at Harvard. Information about the book is available on the "I Have a Dream"[®] Foundation website, www.ihad.org, as well as through the national office located in New York City. For more information about the book, please call 212-293-5480 x35.

About Margot Welch

Margot Welch, Ed.D., has worked as a psychologist and educator in school, community, and court settings for more than three decades. She founded the Collaborative for Integrated School Services at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she has taught courses about school-based services and full service/community schools. She has always been

interested in "thrivers," people who succeed at doing the kind of public service work that seems impossible to many – relentless helpers who, like the philanthropists in this book, are determined to equalize opportunity and well-being for us all.

About the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation

The "I Have a Dream"® motivates and empowers children from low-income communities to achieve their education and career goals through a long-term program of mentoring, tutoring and enrichment and tuition assistance for higher education. Local Project Sponsors adopt an entire class of students from elementary schools, or a same-age group of children from a housing project, and work with these children and their families through high school. This long-term, sustained commitment by the Sponsors is the critical element to the success of Projects. In areas where typical high school graduation rates are 20% to 40%, as a result of their participation in the "I Have a Dream"® Programs, Dreamers graduate at a rate of 70% to 100%, and three-quarters go on to college. The "I Have a Dream"® model was created in 1981 by New York City businessman Eugene Lang, who sponsored the first "I Have a Dream"® Project. In 1986, the national "I Have a Dream"® Foundation was established. Since then, 190 Projects nationwide have helped more than 14,000 students, called "Dreamers," across the country. The program continues to grow. On May 23, 2004, the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation was featured on CBS News' 60 Minutes for its work in keeping at-risk youth in school, and its influence in shaping out-of-school initiatives of the current Chicago Public Schools system. The "I Have a Dream"® Foundation is headquartered in New York City. For more information about the national Foundation, visit www.ihad.org.

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